

349—1.4 (28) Definitions. For the purpose of these rules, the following definitions apply:

“Accountable” means the community board will include the public in assessing, setting priorities, and developing and implementing a community plan to reach the purpose and desired results of empowerment and will ensure that adequate records are maintained.

“Advocacy” means to promote the purpose of community empowerment, promote the enhancement and expansion of the community plan and promote individual and family access to formal and informal support.

“Alignment” means state- and community-level interagency efforts to integrate early care, health, and education systems and enhance state and community partnerships through innovative approaches.

“Business community investment advisory council” means a council created by the Iowa legislature to provide recommendations on building a public-private partnership for early childhood in Iowa.

“Central office of empowerment” means a facilitator (appointed by the governor) and staff in the Iowa department of management.

“Citizen representative” means a resident of the empowerment area, who is not an elected official or a required representative for education, health, and human services, or a paid staff member of an agency whose services fall under the plan or purview of the community board. A citizen representative may also represent faith, consumer or business.

“Community assessment” means to identify all formal and informal supports, assets and resources, as well as gaps, in the empowerment area for children and their families. A community assessment includes communitywide data, statistics, and facts upon which to base decisions to develop a community plan and to identify priorities to reach the desired results.

“Community board” means the governing board for an empowerment area.

“Community board advisory council” means individuals appointed by the community board to function on a continuing basis to study and recommend policy and guidelines for the empowerment area.

“Community plan” means the local school ready grant plan, adopted by the community board following input from the community, implemented in the empowerment area.

“Consumer” means an individual or a family member who is or has been receiving services or who is impacted by the community plan.

“Culturally competent” means the capacity to function across cultures, requiring the ability to appreciate, understand and interact with members of diverse populations within the community.

“Decategorization project” means the human services decategorization of child welfare and juvenile justice funding project operated under Iowa Code section 232.188.

“Designation” means the status awarded by the Iowa board to an empowerment area meeting the criteria for geographic boundaries, readiness, the collaboration process, assessment, priorities, a community plan and budget to reach the desired results for children and their families.

“Developmentally appropriate” means that services are based on human development and learning, individual characteristics and experiences, and social and cultural contexts.

“Early care,” “early care services,” or *“early care system”* means the programs, services, support or other assistance made available to a parent or other person who is involved with addressing the health and education needs of a child from birth through the age of five. *“Early care,” “early care services,”* or *“early care system”* includes but is not limited to public and private efforts and formal and informal settings.

“Early childhood business committee” means a committee created by the Iowa board to advise the Iowa board on the use of the first years first account funds and to support implementation of the business community investment advisory council.

“Elected official” means a member of a board or governing body elected through the means of a public election.

“Empowerment area” means a geographic area as defined by the local community and designated by the Iowa board.

“Family support” means community-based services to promote the well-being of children and families.

1. Family support programs have the following characteristics:
 - Family-driven, meaning there is a true partnership with families.
 - Comprehensive, flexible, and individualized to each family based on the family’s culture, needs, values and preferences.
 - Build on strengths to increase the stability of family members and the family unit.
 - Utilize informal and formal support networks.
2. Family support programs produce the following results:
 - Increased parent confidence and competence in their parenting abilities.
 - Safe, stable, and supportive families who are connected to their communities.
 - Enhanced health, growth, and development of children and adults in the family unit.

“First years first” means a public-private partnership for early childhood in Iowa which includes an account created in the Iowa empowerment fund under the authority of the department of management to be used for first years first.

“Fiscal agent” means a public agency as defined in Iowa Code section 28E.2; a community action agency as defined in Iowa Code section 216A.91; a nonprofit corporation; or an area education agency as defined in Iowa Code chapter 273 to be designated as the fiscal agent by a community board.

“Fiscal assessment” means a comprehensive listing of funding to support children prenatal through five years of age.

“Home visitation” means a strategy to deliver family support or parent education services. A home visit is a face-to-face visit with a family in the family’s home or other alternate location to facilitate meeting the family’s goals.

“Indicator” means a measure that indirectly quantifies the achievement of a result.

“Iowa board” means the state of Iowa’s community empowerment board as appointed by the governor that meets the membership criteria of citizens and state agency directors as voting members and legislators as nonvoting members.

“Iowa board advisory council” means a body of individuals appointed by the Iowa board, including community board members, to obtain input and recommendations on policy and guidelines.

“Iowa empowerment fund” means a fund created in the state treasury from which moneys will be distributed to empowerment areas for the purpose of supporting children and their families.

“Parent education” means programs that implement organized and planned meetings designed to support parents’ efforts to enhance their children’s health and development. Parent education may be provided in a group setting or one-on-one in a family’s home or alternate location. It is generally limited in scope and duration, typically lasting for 8 to 12 weeks. Parent education programs have the following characteristics:

- Provide parents with information, skills, support systems and confidence in their parental role in order to support, nurture and promote children’s health and development;
- Strengthen positive relationships between parents and children;
- Build on parents’ strengths and utilize their experiences, ideas and knowledge; and
- Provide information that meets the needs of parents for specific content and that is shared in a manner that is responsive to a parent’s learning style, education and culture.

“Performance measure” means a measure that assesses a program, activity, or service.

“Preschool programming support services” means assistance with preschool tuition not covered by another source for families who have children aged three, four, or five and who meet the eligibility requirements; support for transporting children to and from preschool services; or services that directly enhance or expand existing programming for children.

“Result” means the effect desired for Iowans.

“Results-oriented” means the focus of the Iowa board and community boards is on results of the effect and impact the community plan and community collaboration have on children and their families for progress toward the desired results.

“State agency” means a department of the executive branch including, but not limited to, the departments of economic development, education, human rights, human services, public health, and workforce development.

“State empowerment team” means the central office of empowerment in the department of management and identified personnel from the state departments of economic development, education, human rights, human services, public health, and workforce development to provide the day-to-day operational work of local- and state-level community empowerment and support to the Iowa board.

“Technical assistance” means an ongoing, systematic and interactive process that is designed to achieve results and that enables knowledge from research, policy and evidence-based practices to be shared in partnerships through a variety of strategies with specific groups, agencies, communities and other partners to use within their unique contexts.